

TOP SECRET

TS#155224(20)
Copy 6 of 10

6 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Chief, Far East Division, DD/P

SUBJECT : Sortie Rate for [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A REFERENCES : TS#155184, dated 13 May 1959
DD/P 4-5432, dated 21 May 1959

[REDACTED]

25X1A

[REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

3. The ARC has reviewed the ELINT requirements for the [REDACTED] area and has concluded that this area does not rate in the highest priority category for National ELINT Requirements. However, it recognized the importance of the area to the theatre and has outlined priority guidance for the development of requirements to levy on [REDACTED]. The attached paper, Tab A, gives details on this. Tab B is a cable which reflects the action of the PAC on ELINT requirements in pursuance of Tab A. It is expected that details, which are essential to make [REDACTED] requirements more meaningful, will be forthcoming from EPC in the very near future. These will be in the nature of specific coordinates and will set forth the frequencies or other technical details for guidance in [REDACTED] flight planning.

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

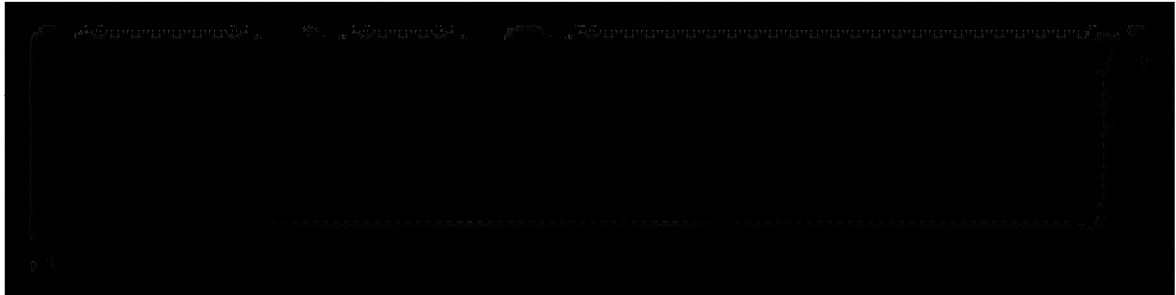
4. Until these details are received by this Headquarters it is not feasible to judge with reason how many sorties per month or quarter are required to meet the theatre requirements. It is for this reason that at this time one cannot turn to ELINT requirements as the basis for judging whether the present permitted rate of ten sorties per month or a lesser number should be established.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

- 2 -

25X1C

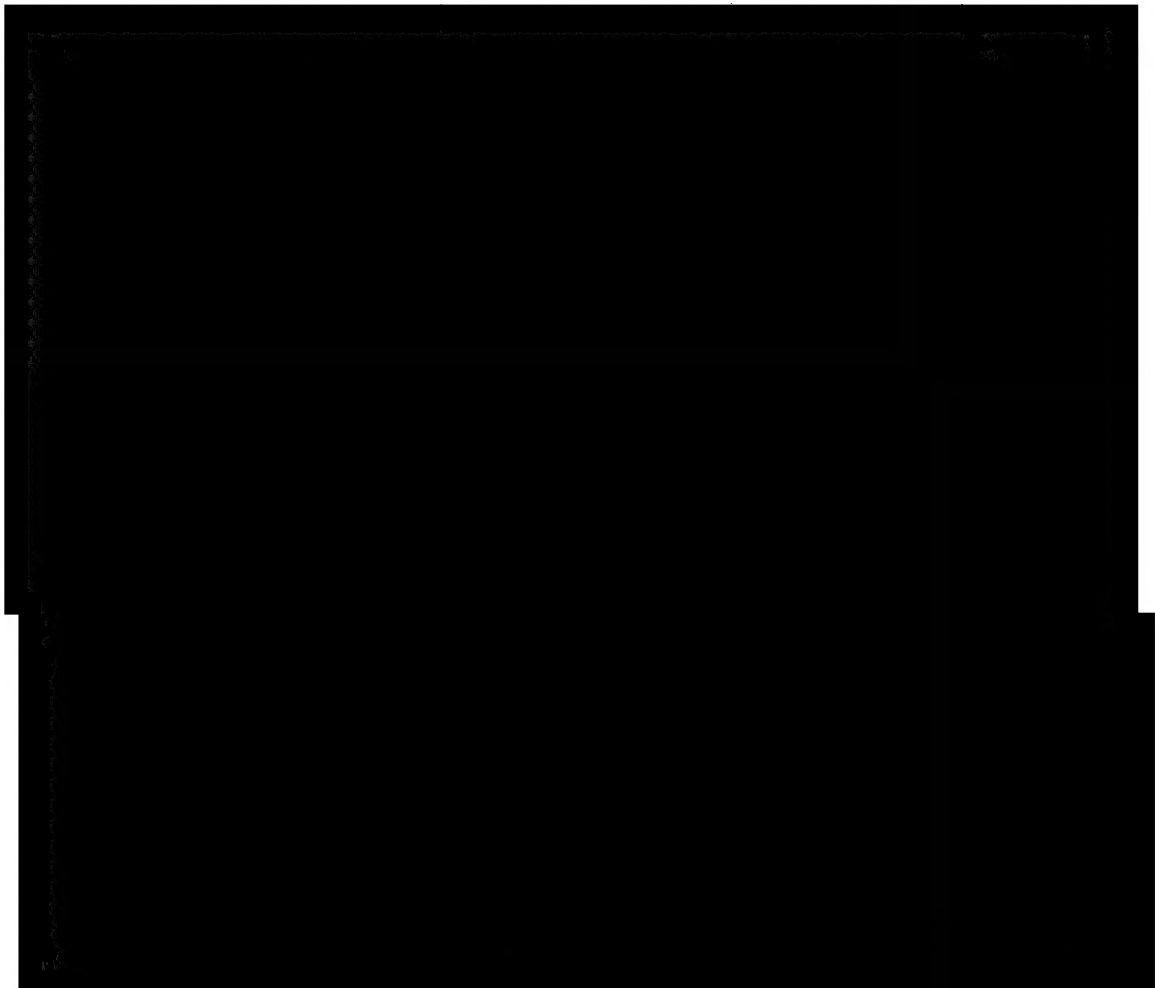


25X1A
25X1A

6. It is reported that there is a strong pressure on the part of the [REDACTED] for the continued activity of [REDACTED] though it has never been made clear what is the minimum number of sorties per month which would require their feelings in the matter.

7. On the operational side note should be taken of the following:

25X1A



25X1A

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

- 3 -

8. Economy does not appear to enter into the judgment as to how many sorties should be obtained. Maintenance and supply costs are substantially the same regardless of the number of sorties, within reason. [REDACTED]

25X1A

9. From an examination of all of the foregoing it would appear that at present the only grounds for reducing the number of sorties per month to any figure lower than ten rests upon the question of hazard. It is the judgment of DPD that this hazard, by virtue of increased [REDACTED] A. I. capability, has now reached a point (marked dramatically by the recent shutdown) where prudence would suggest discontinuance of overflight operations until such time as adequate countermeasures have been completed. These are now in urgent progress. We are aware of no requirement, ELINT or PP of such magnitude as to overrate the hazard noted.

25X1A

10. Inasmuch as it is the reported view that flights, even in the face of the A. I. hazard must continue for political reasons [REDACTED] would remain obdurate in the face of a clear factual presentation. It is not seen how continuation in these circumstances can serve their interest.

25X1A

25X1A

11. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That [REDACTED] be discontinued pending the installation of currently planned A. I. countermeasures equipment. (Installation should be completed within 30 days.)

25X1A

b. That upon installation of A. I. countermeasures equipment, the judgment on the number of sorties be based upon coverage of priority targets developed under the procedures outlined in paragraph 3 above.

SIGNED

WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

Attached: Tab A, DPD-2431-59
Tab B, TS#155195 SERIES "B"

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

25X1A - 4 -

Subject: Sortie Rate for [REDACTED]

CONCURRENCE:

* Chief, Far East Division, DD/P

Date:
25X1A

APPROVAL: Items a and b
in para II approved.

(Sgt) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

Para RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

Date: 15 JUL 1959

TOP SECRET

TS-155224-4